



ST. CHARLES PARISH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

JOAN T. DIAZ, MPA
DIRECTOR

TO: V. J. St. Pierre, Parish President

FROM: Joan Diaz, Community Services Director

RE: MONTHLY REPORT, YEAR END 2014

ENERGY ASSISTANCE: In the year 2014, seven hundred fifty-seven (757) clients were assisted through the *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*. The total amount of assistance provided was \$364,300.00.

Eighty-four (84) clients were assisted through the *Crisis Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (CLIHEAP)*. The total amount of assistance provided was \$20,655.96.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: In the year 2014, twenty-eight (28) clients were assisted through the *Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBGP)*. 14 people were assisted with an electric bill, 9 people were assisted with a water bill, 3 people were assisted with obtaining medicine, 1 person was assisted with rent, and 1 person was given shelter. The total amount of assistance provided was \$3,800.00, impacting 60 people in the parish.

One hundred twelve clients were assisted through the *Local Emergency Assistance Program (LEAP)*. 32 people were assisted with an electric bill, 30 people were assisted with a water bill, 22 people were given shelter, 13 people were assisted with rent, 10 people were assisted with obtaining medicine, 3 people were assisted with a gas bill, 3 fire victims were given food and clothes, and 1 victim of domestic violence had a storage unit paid two months in advance in order to sustain a new life. The total amount of assistance provided was \$17,077.49, impacting 282 people in the parish.

SHARE THE WARMTH: In the year 2014, forty-three (43) clients were assisted with a gas bill through the *Share the Warmth Program (STWP)*. The total amount of assistance provided was \$13,860.96.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK PROGRAM: In the year 2014, three hundred thirty-seven (337) clients applied for the *Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB)*. 127 were new clients and 210 were returning participants. 390 boxes of food were given out, impacting 686 people in the parish.

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: In the year 2014, eighty-five (85) clients attended life skills classes and four (4) clients consecutively saw a counselor made available through Kingsley House.

H.O.M.E. PROGRAM: In the year 2014, four (4) homes were completed. One project is currently still in progress.

There is a long waiting list of applicants for the HOME program.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM: In the year 2014, a wide variety of work was done for homeowners. In January, the staff carpenter repaired ceiling sheet rock at one home and installed a new heater for the homeowner. Another home was made handicap accessible for a homeowner by widening a bathroom doorway, installing new doors, and building a ramp. In February, our carpenter replaced rotten floor for one homeowner and installed a new toilet at another home. In March, our carpenter replaced exterior doors that were inoperable and made other repairs to the kitchen and bathroom at one home. At another home, repairs were done to and parts were replaced on an HVAC unit. In April, air conditioning repairs and part replacements were made at two homes. The staff carpenter replaced an exterior door at one home. Weather strips were installed on two doors. A toilet was replaced at one home. Wet carpet was removed from another home. In May, two hot water heaters were installed for two homeowners, along with receiving additional plumbing work. Floor repairs were completed and new floor was installed at one home. A new door was installed at another home. In June, the department partnered with the Catholic HEART Camp to do work on three homes. Our carpenter worked with the volunteers to complete exterior painting on two homes and also to replace all ceilings and sheetrock in another home. One homeowner was assisted with a handicap bathroom renovation. A new door opening was made to provide access into the bathroom with a new interior door installed. Handicap modifications were made in the bathroom, including the installation of a new handicap walk-in shower unit. Our carpenter continued to complete flooring work at one home. In addition, a new exterior door was installed at one home, and plumbing repairs along with a new hot water heater was installed at another home. In

July, the staff carpenter installed a new exterior door and repaired sheetrock in one home. In August, our carpenter made repairs to a bathroom, adjusted doors, and installed a new exterior door in one home. In September, contractors installed handicap showers and toilets in two homes, repaired rotten wood and replaced flooring. Additional plumbing work was necessary at both homes during the course of the projects. A new hot water heater was installed in one home, along with rewiring the electrical panel and extensive plumbing work. The staff carpenter removed molded, wet carpet from one home and installed peel and stick flooring in its place. In October, a new heating and air conditioning system was installed, along with a thermostat and new ducts in the attic and ceilings in one home. The staff carpenter replaced an exterior door in one home and also repaired a handicap ramp that was deteriorating in another home. In November, our carpenter assisted a homeowner with installing insulation. In December, all funding was depleted.

Total funds expended this year were \$59,472.29. There is a balance of \$0 remaining in the budget.

There is a long waiting list of applicants awaiting assistance with Health & Safety issues.

REPAIRS ON WHEELS: Thanks to the United Way Agency of Luling, a \$50,000 grant was awarded to the Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans. They have a program called Repair On Wheels in which they will service the citizens of St. Charles Parish.

The VOA will build handicap ramps and take care of any minor repairs for the homeowners in need of this service. The Community Service Office will qualify all applicants, with referrals from the Council On Aging.

In the year 2014, nine (9) ramps and one (1) porch were completed. There are three additional qualified homeowners waiting for ramps to be built and twenty-six homeowners on the waiting list.

There is a balance of \$37,713.53 remaining in the budget.

NOTE: The VOA will take care of all the expenditures through their agency.

ST. ROSE COMMUNITY CENTER: In the year 2014, the community center hosted a variety of activities and aided students and residents in many ways. In January, students were assisted with science and social studies fair projects. In February, students were assisted with their black history reports for school. For residents, one-on-one assistance was given to those who wanted to utilize the computers to file their income taxes online. In March, there was a March Madness Basketball Shoot-Out for

the children. Again, adults who wanted to file taxes online were assisted. In April, one-on-one tax assistance continued. Students worked on LEAP test packets with sample questions. The Summer Enrichment Program took place in June and July – field trips, educational activities, crafts, and recreational activities took place and lunch was provided by the Summer Food Service Program. An Open House event was held in September. Vendors that participated were Boystown of Louisiana, St. Charles Parish Library, Dr. K Movement, Healthy Life Awareness, and the Department of Community Services. In October, a Karaoke Night was hosted for the children, while line-dancing was added to the activities calendar for the community. In November, an outdoor movie night was held where volunteers donated their time and audio equipment so that children and parents could successfully watch "The Gabby Douglas Story." In December, children from the center were "adopted" by Latter & Blum Reality in Destrehan, LA and granted wishes from their Christmas List. There was also a Polar Bear Express Breakfast made possible by Winn-Dixie.

The Drop-In Center Program was ongoing all year. The program offers a variety of opportunities for St. Charles Parish students such as: homework help, arts and crafts offered by the St. Rose Branch St. Charles Parish Library, and other structured activities. Snacks are also provided. The hours are from 3 PM – 6 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The center also offers tutorials on basic computer knowledge to those who are not computer savvy.

Drop In (before 2:30 pm)	856
After school Drop In	578
Snacks	3,948
Computer Literacy Class	24
Volunteers	20
Art Class	33
Computer Lab Use (Job Search)	4
Computer Lab	37
Open House	22
Line Dancing	20
Basketball Shoot-out (March)	30
Karaoke Night (October)	32
Movie Night (November)	32
Secret Santa Christmas Party (December)	13
Polar Bear Express Breakfast (December)	18
Information & Referral	25

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM: The Summer Food Service Program serviced three hundred and eleven (311) children in the St. Charles Parish community, serving 8,079 meals.

YOUTH RALLY: On August 9, the Department of Community Services partnered with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and Alpha Daughters of Zion to host the first youth rally. Three hundred (300) youth attended. The rally included door prizes and a school-supply give-away. Motivational speakers included topics on the following: bullying, social media, conflict resolution, and parenting education, as well as information from various other community partners.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Thanks to a variety of community donors and volunteers, the department successfully provided a Thanksgiving Basket to 215 residents.

INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES: All clients in need of additional services were referred to other social services agencies including: Social Security, SSI, AFDC, Veteran Administration, WIA, Social Concerns, Catholic Charities, local churches, and other agencies within the parish.